

GOD'S GREATNESS

ILLUSTRATION / DEMONSTRATION

PREPARATION:

Obtain the use of a star projector, one of those toys that make a kid's bedroom look like the inside of a planetarium. Test it to make sure it produces a good effect in the room where you'll be giving the children's sermon.

(Alternatively, obtain an image of a starry night sky to show to the children on an overhead projector.)

Also, make copies of the "Words to Treasure" on page 608 of the *NIV Adventure Bible*, to pass out to children after the sermon.

DURING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Turn down the lights in the room and switch on the star projector (or show the image of a starry night sky on an overhead projector). Ask the kids, "Isn't the sky beautiful on a clear night, when there aren't any clouds? There are so many stars, it seems impossible to count them. How many of you can find Polaris, the North Star, at night? How many can point out constellations like the Big Dipper and Orion? Have any of you ever seen a shooting star? How many of you have seen an eclipse of the moon? Has anyone ever seen the Northern Lights?"

SCRIPTURE READING

Open the *NIV Adventure Bible* to Psalm 8, telling the children, "When King David was a young shepherd boy, he must have loved to stare up at the starry sky. Listen to what he wrote about it in Psalm 8."

*O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory
above the heavens.*

*From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise
because of your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?
You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
 you put everything under his feet:
 all flocks and herds,
 and the beasts of the field,
 the birds of the air,
 and the fish of the sea,
 all that swim the paths of the seas.
 O LORD, our Lord,
 how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

FEATURE READING / MESSAGE

Turning to page 609 in the *NIV Adventure Bible*, say to the children, "Listen to this 'Live It!' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'Look at the Heavens.'"

David often slept outside at night when he cared for his father's sheep. He watched the moon and the stars and thought about God. [Psalm 8 tells] what David thought when he looked up.

Some clear night go outside and look at the stars. Without a telescope you can see just over 1,000 stars. If you had looked through the first telescope, made many years ago by Galileo, you would have seen over 3,000. With today's big telescopes you can see millions of stars in the sky! It's good to lie on your back, look at the stars, and think about how great God is.

Tell the children, "Isaiah 40:26 says, 'Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.' Every time David looked up at the starry sky, he was reminded that God is majestic, powerful, and wise. Night after night, David was inspired to praise and worship God. He was also reassured to know that such a great God was lovingly watching over him."

APPLICATION

Turn to page 661 in the *NIV Adventure Bible*, telling the children, "Listen to this 'Life in Bible Times' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'What God Is Like.'"

Psalm 89 says that God is "LORD God Almighty." He is the one who created the whole universe—the stars, the sun, the earth, and everything on it, including us. Such a powerful God is surely able to take care of us.

Say to the children, "David understood how awesome God is, and he trusted God to look after him. All through your life, keep reading passages in the Bible that express God's greatness, such as Psalm 8, and keep thinking about how wonderful God is as you look around at the universe he created. It will inspire you to praise and worship God, and it'll help you remember that you can always rely on him to take care of you."

Read the "Words to Treasure" on page 608 of the *NIV Adventure Bible*. Then pass out copies of it, challenging the children to memorize the Scripture verse it contains.

*O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.
 —Psalm 8:1*